

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for Year 1948

RONALD E. JOHNSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Lichfield Rural District Council

RURAL COUNCIL HOUSE,
LICHFIELD,

25th July, 1949

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although only appointed Medical Officer of Health as from 1st April, 1949, it has fallen to me to compile the Annual Report for the year 1948, which I now have pleasure in presenting.

As in previous years, those statistics which are an indication of the health of the district provide an interesting comparison with those for the country as a whole, the birth rate being 17.82 as compared with 17.9 for England and Wales, the infantile mortality rate being 37.58, as compared with 34.0 for England and Wales, and the death rate being 9.11, as compared with 10.8 for England and Wales.

As regards infectious disease, 1948 was a very favourable year, both incidence and mortality being very low. There was no major outbreak of infectious disease during the year. Only three cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, all in persons over the age of thirty.

The year 1948 saw the initiation, on 5th July, of the National Health Service. The change affected the work of the Health Department but little, the principal change being the transfer of the control of the Ambulance Service from the District Council to Staffordshire County Council, as Local Health Authority.

Dr. R. E. Johnson, who was Medical Officer of Health during the year, has asked me to express his thanks to the Members of the Council, the staff of the Health Department, and to other Officers of the Council, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. JAMISON

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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VICE-CHAIRMAN H. V. Smith, Esq.

and also

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E. M. Williams, Esq.

J. S. Wright, Esq.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health—

RONALD E. JOHNSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—

GEORGE LEEDER, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.S.I.A.

Engineer and Surveyor—

J. G. RIMAND, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	83,715
Population (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,340
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1948, according to							
Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,033
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£172,880
Net product of penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£681

The district is mainly an agricultural one. The western part contains coal seams, and has a considerable mining population. There are pottery works in Armitage, and tape mills in Fazeley. There are also several industrial concerns in Shenstone. Unemployment is of negligible proportions in all parts of the district.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births—						Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	588	284	304
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	24	15	9
Total						612	299	313
Birth rate						17.82 per 1,000 population		
Still Births—						Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	20	12	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
						21	13	8
Rate per 1,000 total births				...	33.18			
Rate per 1,000 population				...	.61			
						Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	313	167	146
Death rate						9.11 per 1,000 population		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—								
Puerperal Sepsis		...	...	...	...	1		
Other Puerperal Causes		...	...	...	...	2		
Total						3		
Death rate in infants under one year of age—								
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births						...	...	37.58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						...	...	41.66
All infants per 1,000 live births						...	...	37.58
Deaths from Cancer		...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Deaths from Measles		...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)		...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The following table gives the birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate for Lichfield Rural District, as compared with that for England and Wales, London, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London), and 148 Smaller Towns :—

	BIRTHRATE		DEATH RATE	INFANT MORTALITY RATE
	LIVE	STILL		
England and Wales	17.9	0.42	10.8	34
London	20.1	0.39	11.6	31
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	20.0	0.52	11.6	39
148 Smaller Towns	19.2	0.43	10.7	32
Lichfield R. D.	17.8	0.61	9.11	37.58

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Year	Estimated Population		Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1944	32,760		19.14	10.13	38.1
1945	32,710		19.04	10.0	48.0
1946	33,790		19.4	9.2	45.9
1947	34,400		21.5	9.97	43.47
1948	34,340		17.82	9.11	37.58

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LICHFIELD DURING THE YEAR 1948

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	2	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer	22	21	43
Diabetes	—	1	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	17	17	34
Heart Diseases	48	44	92
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	1	4	5
Bronchitis	6	8	14
Pneumonia	9	8	17
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	1	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	—	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	—	2
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	5	7
Nephritis	2	3	5
Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis ...	—	1	1
Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2
Premature Birth	5	2	7
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, etc.	5	1	6
Suicide	4	—	4
Road Traffic Accidents	3	3	6
Other violent causes	4	2	6
All other causes	20	18	38
TOTALS ...	167	146	313

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

LABORATORY FACILITIES

During 1947, the Public Health Laboratory Service took over the bacteriological and pathological laboratories formerly run by Staffordshire County Council in Stafford. During 1948, these laboratories provided a free service to the Health Department of the Council, and also to hospitals and medical practitioners in the district.

Results of examinations carried out during 1948 were as follows :—

Swabs for Diphtheria Bacillus :—

		Positive	Negative	Total
Throat—				
From Practitioners ...	...	—	64	64
From Isolation Hospital	...	—	66	66
Nose—				
From Practitioners	...	—	7	7
From Isolation Hospital	...	1	64	65
Ear—				
From Practitioners	—	—	—
From Isolation Hospital	...	—	17	17

Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus	...	10	28	38
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Samples of Water—

			Normal	Abnormal	Total
Chemical Examination	3	7	10
Bacteriological Examination	6	4	10

Other Specimens—

Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	...	...	1	2	3
Faeces	...	...	4	7	11
Urine	...	...	—	2	2
Pus ...	...	...	—	4	4
Blood	...	...	—	1	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

During the first half of the year, the Council continued to provide an ambulance service, which operated from the Council's depot in Lichfield. The service was free to all residents in the district. It was also at the disposal of the Lichfield City Council, on a repayment basis. Mutual-aid arrangements existed with adjoining districts. An ambulance belonging to the British Red Cross Society was also available to the Council for work in the district, at an agreed scale of charges.

On 5th July, 1948, the duty of providing an ambulance service in the district devolved, under the National Health Service Act, upon Staffordshire County Council, as Local Health Authority under the Act. The service has been augmented, and continues to operate from Lichfield.

NURSING IN THE HOME

Up to 5th July, 1948, the various Nursing Associations, which were affiliated to the Staffordshire Nursing Association, continued their valuable work in the different parts of the district.

On 5th July, 1948, the duty of providing nursing in the home devolved upon the Staffordshire County Council, who decided to assume direct responsibility for the provision of the service, thereby taking over the work formerly done by the Voluntary Nursing Association. In most cases, the nurses formerly employed by the Nursing Associations accepted employment under the County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

These centres and clinics continued, during the year, to be administered by Staffordshire County Council, with the exception of the Chest Clinics and the Venereal Disease Clinics, which, on 5th July, 1948, came under the control of Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, although they continued in the same buildings as previously.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Place	Address	Day	Time
Alrewas	Oddfellows' Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	2—5 p.m.
Armitage	The Parish Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	2—5 p.m.
Chasetown ...	Social Institute	Wednesdays weekly	1-30—5 p.m.
Fazeley	Victoria Memorial Hall	Mondays weekly	1-30—5 p.m.
Whittington	Girls' Club	3rd Thursday	2—5 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINIC

There is only one School Clinic in the district at Chase Terrace, where it is held weekly, on Tuesday mornings, between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Place	Address	Day	Time
Chasetown ...	Social Institute	Fridays fortnightly	9-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m.
Armitage	The Parish Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	1-30—2 p.m.

CHEST CLINICS

The nearest Chest Clinics, which are used for the diagnosis, treatment and supervision of cases of tuberculosis, are located in Lichfield City, Cannock and Shelfield.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Disease are provided at the General Hospital, Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary, General Hospital, Stafford, Manor Hospital, Walsall, and the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS

Prior to 5th July, 1948, hospital facilities for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious disease were provided and controlled by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board. As from 5th July, the provision of such facilities became the duty and responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Hospital accommodation continued to be provided at Wissage Hospital, Lichfield, Cheslyn Hay Isolation Hospital, near Cannock, and Tithe Barn Hospital, Stafford, for cases of infectious disease other than smallpox.

Facilities for the isolation and treatment of persons suffering from smallpox existed during the first half of the year at Bilston Smallpox Hospital. Later, facilities were provided at Witton Smallpox Hospital, Birmingham.

GENERAL HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

On 5th July, 1948, all hospitals serving the district were transferred to the newly created Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. General hospital facilities were provided at Victoria Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital, in Lichfield, Hammerwich Cottage Hospital, and at hospitals in Birmingham, Walsall, Stafford, Wolverhampton and Burton.

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Once again, the value of diphtheria immunisation has been proved during the year, when the only three cases which occurred were in adults, all over thirty years of age.

The estimated mid-year population, of children under fifteen years of age, in the district was 8,261, and, of these, 4,777 had been immunised against diphtheria at the end of the year.

This immunisation is free, and can be carried out either by the family doctor, or by the doctor at any Infant Welfare Clinic, or by one of the doctors in the School Medical Service. Every effort should be made to have the child protected before it reaches the age of one year. Further inoculations should be given at five years and at ten years of age.

It is very regrettable that more parents do not avail themselves of this valuable service, which has undoubtedly been the main cause of the spectacular reduction in both incidence of, and mortality from, diphtheria, during the last eight years.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table indicates the prevalence of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, and the number of deaths from these diseases during 1948.

CIVILIANS

NATURE OF CASE	TOTAL 1947	TOTAL 1948	MALE	FEMALE	AGE DISTRIBUTION	DEATHS
Measles ...	382	147	64	83	0 — 1 — 3 1 — 5 — 70 5 — 10 — 63 10 — 15 — 5 15 — 25 — 4 Over 25 — 2	
Whooping Cough	43	83	36	47	0 — 1 — 4 1 — 5 — 45 5 — 10 — 31 10 — 15 — 1 Over 25 — 1 Age N.K. — 1	
Pneumonia ...	19	20	13	7	0 — 5 — 3 5 — 15 — 2 15 — 45 — 4 45 — 65 — 9 Over 65 — 2	17
Scarlet Fever ...	36	35	18	17	1 — 5 — 7 5 — 10 — 24 10 — 15 — 2 15 — 25 — 2	
Erysipelas ...	2	4	3	1	45 — 65 — 3 Over 65 — 1	
Diphtheria ...	5	3	2	1	Over 30 — 3	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ...	7	1	1	—	5 — 10 — 1	

NON-CIVILIANS

Measles ...	2	1	1	—	15 — 25 — 1	
Scarlet Fever ...	4	1	1	—	15 — 25 — 1	
Pneumonia ...	1	3	3	—	15 — 25 — 3	

Once again, it was unnecessary to close any school because of an outbreak of infectious disease.

The following table shows the number of notifications of cases of infectious disease, per 1,000 civilian population, for the District, as compared with England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London), 148 Smaller Towns, and London Administrative County :—

DISEASE	ENGLAND AND WALES	126 C.B.'S. AND GREAT TOWNS INCLUDING LONDON	148 SMALLER TOWNS	LONDON ADMIN. COUNTY	LICHFIELD R.D.
Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	—
Paratyphoid ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37	1.01
Whooping Cough ...	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13	2.41
Diphtheria ...	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.09
Erysipelas ...	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.11
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17	4.28
Pneumonia ...	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57	0.51
Poliomyelitis ...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.02
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34	0.02

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of the ages of the new cases notified, and deaths from this disease, during the year :—

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—
5—10 years	1	1	2	1	1	—	—	—
10—15 years	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 years	2	7	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—55 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Over 65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	9	13	4	2	4	2	1	—

Patients suffering from the disease were admitted to Hospitals and Sanatoria, during the year, as follows :—

The Limes, Himley ...	...	...	3
Newcastle Isolation Hospital	...	...	1
Groundslow Sanatorium ...	...	...	2
Children's Hospital, Birmingham ...	...	...	2

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS

Prepared by Mr. J. G. Rimand, Engineer and Surveyor

Generally throughout the district all sewage works have shown a reasonably good effluent during the past year, Alrewas, Little Aston, Stonnall, Hopwas and Wigginton and Whittington particularly. Burntwood, Chasetown and the Watling Street have been satisfactory and are being kept in condition by the workmen employed by you.

Armitage and Handsacre.—The disposal works in this parish are inadequate and a scheme has been prepared, and approved by the Ministry of Health, for the sewerage of the whole village and the construction of a new works. In view, however, of economic conditions, consent for the carrying out of this work has not yet been obtained, but it is hoped that approval will be forthcoming at an early date to enable a portion at least to be commenced.

Burntwood.—The pumping station at Cannock Road is working satisfactorily, but the Peter's Lane, Edial, disposal works are in need of enlargement to deal with the large quantity of storm water received, together with improvements in the method of sludge disposal. This matter will have to be given serious attention as soon as conditions permit.

Chasetown.—The works at Chasetown are giving satisfactory service, and have sufficient reserve capacity to deal with the large development at Oakdene, to which sewers have been laid during the year.

Colton.—Conditions show little change in this parish, but some attention will be needed to the main sewer and the disposal works in the next few years.

Fazeley.—The sewerage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee, passing from the main sewer in the Watling Street, under the canal, to Tamworth. Considerable development has taken place at Mile Oak and the main sewer is inadequate. I prepared a scheme shortly before the war for providing a new sewer to relieve the flow and the construction of a new disposal works, but this has had to be deferred owing to the war. Since the war, a sewage pumping station has been constructed at Brook End, Fazeley, to deal with sewage from the housing estate.

Hammerwich.—The Watling Street disposal works is working satisfactorily, and certain work has been carried out to the tanks and bacteria beds during the year, as same have been affected by subsidence. These are now working satisfactorily, the pumping station at Triangle is also working satisfactorily.

Harlaston.—These works are working as well as can be expected under the circumstances, but early attention will have to be given to alterations, to provide a more regular flow by the installation of an electric pump in place of the hand pump.

Hopwas.—These works, which were constructed shortly before the war, are working satisfactorily.

Kings Bromley.—During the year a scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a small disposal works. It is hoped that approval for the carrying out of this work will be given as soon as the Ministry of Health lift the present ban on such work. In the meantime a tank, constructed as a temporary measure at the sewer outfall, is working satisfactorily.

Longdon.—A scheme has been prepared and approved by the Ministry of Health, for the sewerage of a considerable portion of the parish, the sewage to be disposed of at the proposed new Sewage disposal works at Armitage.

Shenstone.—The sewers in this village have been extended since the war in order to serve the housing estate. The disposal works is in a poor condition and I have a scheme in the course of preparation which will provide for a modern works on a new site. This will have to be proceeded with at an early date, if a nuisance is to be avoided. The pumping station at Lynn Lane requires early pump replacement. The Chester Road, Stonnall, scheme for the extension of the sewer from Stonnall has been carried out during the year. The disposal works at Lynn are working satisfactorily. The disposal works at Little Aston are giving a satisfactory effluent, even though they are working to capacity most of the time. The question of the enlargement of these works will have to be considered at a fairly early date.

Streethay.—These works were re-constructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. camp. A modern bacteria bed and humus tanks have been provided, and these are working satisfactorily.

Wall.—The disposal works for this village is working satisfactorily and most of the village is now connected to same, the sewerage scheme commenced shortly before the war having now been completed. The Muckley Corner end of the parish will, however, need attention in the future. I have prepared proposals for same being connected to the extension proposed for Hammerwich, in order that same will be dealt with at the Peter's Lane disposal works.

Wigginton.—Conditions in the portion of Wigginton village which is sewerage are quite good, the disposal being carried out by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee.

Elmhurst.—A scheme has been prepared for a disposal works on the main sewer, which will enable improvements to be made in the general sanitary conditions of the village. A Ministry of Health Inquiry is now awaited.

Hamstall Ridware.—A scheme is in the course of preparation for this village, and, in the meantime, the sewers discharge into a settlement tank on the river bank.

Clifton Campville, Elford, Edingale, Hill Ridware, Drayton Bassett, Swinfen and Packington, Weeford.—There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in these parishes, which have been considered along with the remainder of the district by the Sub-Committee whose report has been presented. This report makes certain recommendations as to the order of priority in which the works detailed in it shall be carried out, and steps will be taken to implement the Committee's decision as soon as present conditions on the carrying out of sewerage works are lifted.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the district for 1948.

During the year the National Health Service Act 1946, and the National Assistance Act, 1948, came into operation but their effect has caused little change in the sanitary administration of the district.

As a result of this new legislation the Council appointed Dr. C. E. Jamison as Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with his appointment as Medical Officer to the Local Health Authority. I would like to express my welcome to Dr. Jamison with the hope that we shall have many years of happy co-operation in our work for the Council.

The Council's housing programme has been maintained throughout the year and its progress is evidence of the Council's determination to provide improved housing conditions for its inhabitants. Maintenance of property by private landlords also shows progress with the steadily improved position now evident in the building industry although it is still not opportune to proceed with re-conditioning of property to the extent outlined in the Third Report of the Rural Housing Survey issued by the Ministry of Health in 1945.

I wish to offer my thanks to the Members of the Council, their Officers and the Staff of the Public Health Department for their continued support and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE LEEDER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

July 25th, 1949.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies.—The parishes of Fazeley and Wigginton and part of the parish of Drayton Bassett are supplied by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks Board.

Part of the parish of Colton is supplied with water purchased by the Council from the Rugeley Urban District Council.

The parishes or parts thereof of Alrewas, Armitage, Brindley Heath, Burntwood, Clifton Campville, Colton, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Farewell and Chorley, Fisherwick, Hammerwich, Hamstall Ridware, Harlaston, Hints, Kings Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen and Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Whittington, Weeford and Wall are supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Due to the advantages, which the Council fully exploited, contained in legislation prior to 1944 affecting the laying of water mains in rural districts, this area is very well served in comparison with rural districts in general in the matter of piped water supplies. Every one of its twenty-eight parishes has a system of water mains supplying all but the smaller aggregations of houses.

I mentioned in my Report for 1947 that eleven schemes of water main extensions under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, had been sent to the Ministry of Health for approval but that, up to the end of that year, national difficulties were proving an obstacle to rapid progress and it had only proved possible to proceed with one of these schemes. I am glad to be able to report that, at the close of the year under review a further five of these schemes, viz., Holly Bank Lane, Armitage ; Orgreave and Pyford Brook, Alrewas ; Fotherley Lane and Mill Lane, Shenstone ; Weeford Village and Dog Lane, Weeford, are in course of negotiation. The estimated cost of these five schemes totals £5,109, and I am hopeful that during 1949 they will be completed.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer in Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company for the following information relative to the piped water supplies of the district :—

1. The water supply to the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity, during 1948.
2. The supply to the Lichfield Rural District is derived from eleven pumping stations which supply not only the rural area but other districts as well.
3. Regular samples are examined, both bacteriologically and chemically, from all stations pumping to supply, and where treatment is installed, bacteriological examinations are also made of the raw waters.
4. Samples are taken at monthly intervals, both from the service reservoirs and from the piped supply at various points in the Rural District.

5. During 1948 fourteen samples from Gentleshaw Service Reservoir were examined and all were free from coliform bacteria, and out of a total of 108 tap samples at scattered points throughout the rural area all were free from any form of coliform bacteria.

“Out of a total of thirty-three samples taken from hydrants in 1948, in Burntwood, Whittington and Elford districts, thirty-one were free from coliform bacteria and the remaining two confirmed the presence of aerogenes.

“Owing to the number of supply stations, the complexity of distribution, and the relatively large area involved, wide variations are found in the chemical composition of the waters supplied in the area—thus, the hardness of the water averaged during 1948 :—

115 parts per million at Chase Terrace.

184 parts per million at Hamstall Ridware.

216 parts per million at Little Aston.

211 parts per million at Thorpe Constantine.

270 parts per million at Fradley Aerodrome.

The December analyses for these five points are enclosed.

“The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action, but tap samples are examined periodically for any traces of lead.

“Chlorination is carried out at most of the pumping stations but this is largely precautionary. In all cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying of service reservoirs, etc., or laying of new mains, emergency chlorination is performed and special apparatus and staff are available for this purpose. The main or service reservoir is not brought back into service until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

“The number of dwelling houses supplied direct at 31st December, 1948, was 7,019, and the estimated population for these houses, based on an average of 4.5 persons per house, was 31,585.

“The number of houses supplied by means of standpipes during 1948 is not readily obtainable but a recent census which was undertaken for another purpose the number of houses supplied from standpipes was 121 or an estimated population of 544 persons served by this means based on the average of 4.5 persons per house.

“I regret that it is not possible to give this information separately in respect of each parish without a fresh census for which I have not sufficient staff available for the time being. In view, however, of the relatively small number of standpipes in use in your Council's area I trust that the lack of this additional information will be of no serious consequence.”

The five analyses referred to by Mr. Robertson indicated that the waters to which they referred were of quite satisfactory quality.

It is understood that the precautionary measures adopted by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Board are substantially the same as the above.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st APRIL, 1948 — 31st MARCH, 1949

The Council's Public Cleansing Service is carried out partly by direct labour and partly by contract and the whole of the district is now serviced.

During the course of the year attention was given by the Council to the possibility of operating a direct labour service in those areas at present under contract. After careful consideration it was agreed that such a service should commence to operate as from 1st April, 1950, and for this purpose orders have been placed for four new ten cubic yard refuse freighters. The decision of the Council in this respect is one that will surely be appreciated and welcomed by all inhabitants of the district as it will ensure that the clearance of domestic refuse is carried out under hygienic conditions and the Council are to be commended on their continued progress in this important aspect of public health work.

In my last report I mentioned the difficulties experienced by the lack of adequate and sufficient provision of ash bins and suggested that there may be an advantage in the Council operating its own ashbin service. It is interesting to note that many authorities throughout the country have decided to undertake the provision of ashbins as a charge on their general rate fund. Such action obviously requires detailed consideration but there is little doubt that the initial expenditure involved would provide the means of ensuring a saving in the costs of the Public Cleansing Service over a period of years.

The Council's Cesspool Emptying Service has again been of value to many residents throughout the year.

Every endeavour has been made to maintain salvage collection at a high level but the general response by householders to the national appeals for the saving of paper has not been good and there has been a consequent reduction in the amount of salvage collection. At the close of the year under review the Council approved a Bonus Scheme for the men engaged on salvage collection with the hope that improved collections would ensue. Unfortunately, as this report is being prepared, the situation regarding salvage has deteriorated nationally and the Council have been compelled by necessity to cease the operation of their salvage service.

STATEMENT OF THE COST OF HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1949

DIRECT LABOUR

PARISH	NO. OF HOUSES	EXPENDITURE	AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER HOUSE
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Burntwood	2636	2,085 11 4	15 10
Curborough and Elmhurst ...	30	14 11 11	9 8
*Drayton Bassett	50	78 9 1	1 11 2
*Fazeley	1030	892 5 11	17 4
*Hammerwich and Wall ...	558	489 14 4	17 6
Hints	60	44 13 7	14 11
Shenstone	1052	1,060 10 8	1 0 2
*Wigginton	248	295 11 4	1 3 10
Total by Direct Labour ...	5664	4,961 8 2	17 6

* Includes cost of Cleansing Pail Closets.

CONTRACT

Alrewas, Kings Bromley and Streethay	680	518 0 0	15 3
Armitage-with-Handsacre ...	500	500 0 0	1 0 0
Brindley Heath and St. Augustine's	225	244 0 0	1 1 8
Clifton Campville	92	82 16 0	18 0
Colton	150	150 0 0	1 0 0
Edingale	80	72 0 0	18 0
Elford	95	85 4 0	17 11
Farewell and Chorley ...	60	90 0 0	1 10 0
Hammerwich	230	221 0 0	19 2
Hamstall Ridware	54	60 0 0	1 2 3
Harlaston	70	60 0 0	17 2
Longdon	410	400 0 0	19 6
Mavesyn Ridware	100	150 0 0	1 10 0
Swinfen and Packington ...	30	30 0 0	1 0 0
Thorpe Constantine ...	30	30 0 0	1 0 0
Weeford	95	150 0 0	1 11 7
Whittington	270	170 0 0	12 7
Total by Contract ...	3171	3,013 0 0	19 0
Total by Direct Labour	5664	4,961 8 2	17 6
Cost of Supervision and Tip Attendance ...		886 11 4	
Total Cost per House ...	8835	8,860 19 6	1 0 0

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

As a result of inspections made, largely owing to complaints received from tenants the following defects were remedied in dwelling houses in the district during the year. No large scale inspections were made of properties during the year for purposes of examination as to want of repair owing to the fact of the continued shortage of materials and labour which only permits very essential work of repair to be carried out.

Defective or insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	45
Defective, insufficient or obstructed drainage	...	...	...	38
Defective roofs, spouting, external brickwork, etc.	...	...	...	86
Insufficient or defective light or ventilation	...	...	...	10
Dampness	...	...	...	48
Water supply	...	...	...	10
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	7
Overcrowding	...	...	...	2
Defective plaster, floors, and other internal defects	...	...	...	170
Defective ashbins	...	...	...	30
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	20
Vermin infestation	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	15
In addition, nuisances were abated as follows :—				
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	6
River and Stream Pollution...	...	...	...	4

HOUSING

At the end of 1948 the progress made in the construction of new houses in the district was as follows :—

	Bungalows	Council Houses	Private Houses
Completed	146	227	63
Building in progress	—	173	39

This represents a considerable advance over last year and in all the circumstances indicates that the Council is fully alive to its responsibilities in this most important respect. It has not proved possible during the year to utilise any of these houses in replacement of the many worn out properties in the area which are, or should be made, the subject of Demolition Orders and I trust that it may be possible in the near future to allocate a number of new houses for this purpose. Satisfaction however can be felt that many of the serious cases of overcrowding have been alleviated since the post-war building programme commenced.

Rural Housing Survey

The progress of this survey has continued during the year and it is now virtually completed. Full details of the final classification of the houses surveyed will be given in my next report. At the close of the year, 5,712 houses had been surveyed and classified as follows :—

1. Satisfactory in all respects	...	...	...	2,623
2. Minor defects	...	...	...	1,309
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	...	...	...	1,345
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	...	...	...	156
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	...	...	...	279
Total				5,712

Squatters

I am still gravely concerned at the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at the three disused services camps in which squatters established themselves some time ago. I made mention last year that a further portion of the R.A.F. Station, Brindley Heath, known as the Communal Site had been entered by squatters and said that, as the general sanitary and other arrangements serving this were of better type than those serving the other part of this camp known as "A" Site the Council had decided to transfer the occupants of the latter portion to the Communal Site as soon as various works could be completed to the huts to render them reasonably fit for occupation. A contract for the carrying out of this work was completed during 1948 and a good deal of work carried out, and by the end of the year quite a number of families had been transferred. Despite the work carried out, however, the huts still fall far short of a reasonably habitable standard. None of the huts on these camps can be made homes in the generally accepted sense of the word and the adverse moral effect on the minds of the occupants cannot be assessed. This is a problem which should be kept in the very forefront of the Council's mind and all endeavours made at the earliest opportunity to provide a solution to it.

Temporary occupation of Condemned Houses

I made mention in my last Annual Report of the fact that nine houses which are the subject of Demolition Orders were let under licences granted under the provisions of Ministry of Health Circular dated September, 1940, which was issued under the Defence (Regulations) 1939, and which authorised the occupation of such houses by persons rendered homeless as a result of enemy action. During the year under review a Council sub-committee inspected the houses to decide on future action regarding them and recommended that in eight cases a further review be made in twelve months time and in the other case, as the house was completely unfit for further occupation, no further licence be issued and attempt be made to secure the approval of the Ministry of Health to demolish it.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS

No major act of river or stream pollution has come to my notice during the year, though necessary action has been required in connection with a number of small pollutions all of which were satisfactorily dealt with.

RAT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943

The departmental duties under this Order and the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, have been continued throughout the year. In every case the treatment applied has been in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Food.

Regular and careful attention has been given to refuse tips and sewage works and for the first time test baiting was carried out in sewers in several areas of the district. This baiting proved that the degree of infestation in sewers was very small and that the facilities available for rat destruction work could be more usefully employed in dealing with other infestations of a more urgent character.

In all during the year 135 visits were made to rat infestations amounting to $152\frac{3}{4}$ hours of the rodent operators employment. The amount received as a result of the small charge made to the occupiers of private properties for this work totalled £6 11s. 7d.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

It will be seen by reference to the following table that the amount of foodstuffs condemned, amounting to upwards of six tons, is a considerable increase over the 1947 figure of nearly one and a half tons. This however need give no cause for alarm. It is in very large measure, due to the fact that prior to the year under review casualty carcasses of food animals, other than knacker carcasses slaughtered in this district were taken direct to Ministry of Food abattoirs in neighbouring districts where inspection to determine their fitness took place. It was felt, however, that the control over this meat would be more satisfactory if the inspections were conducted in this Council's area as soon as possible following slaughter, and it is now the custom for notification to be sent to me before or immediately after a carcass is dressed in order that it can be inspected before leaving the district :—

ARTICLE INSPECTED	CAUSE FOR CONDEMNATION	WEIGHT
155 tins Fruit, Vegetables, etc. ...	Unsound or unwholesome ...	310 lbs.
188 tins Condensed and Evaporated Milk	Unsound or unwholesome ...	94 lbs.
23 jars Jam, Marmalade, Lemon Cheese	Unsound or unwholesome ...	35 lbs.
100 tins Fish	Unsound or unwholesome ...	75 lbs.
25 tins Meat	Unsound or unwholesome ...	15 lbs.
293 lbs. Wet Fish	Unsound or unwholesome ...	293 lbs.
16 lbs. Cheese	Unsound or unwholesome ...	16 lbs.
1 chest Tea	Unsound or unwholesome ...	112 lbs.
14 lbs. Butter	Unsound or unwholesome ...	14 lbs.
43 lbs. Cake	Unsound or unwholesome ...	43 lbs.
67 lbs. Bacon	Unsound or unwholesome ...	67 lbs.
20 lbs. Sausage	Unsound or unwholesome ...	20 lbs.
16 lbs. Currants	Unsound or unwholesome ...	16 lbs.
22 Pies	Unsound or unwholesome ...	15 lbs.
13 lbs. Margarine	Unsound or unwholesome ...	13 lbs.
33 cwts. Carrots	Unsound or unwholesome ...	3696 lbs.
45 lbs. Potatoes	Unsound or unwholesome ...	45 lbs.
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	Unsound or unwholesome ...	90 lbs.
8 Cow Carcases and all organs	Tuberculosis	3325 lbs.
25 sets Cows' Lungs	Tuberculosis	294 lbs.
11 Cows' Heads	Tuberculosis	250 lbs.
1 Pig's Head	Tuberculosis	10 lbs.
3 Cows' Hearts	Tuberculosis	9 lbs.
7 Cows' Livers	Tuberculosis	90 lbs.
2 Cows' Spleens	Tuberculosis	5 lbs.
1 Cow's Intestine and Stomach	Tuberculosis	45 lbs.
Beef Trimmings	Tuberculosis	16 lbs.
2 Cows' Thick Skirts	Tuberculosis	6 lbs.
Portion of Cow's Round and Flank	Tuberculosis	20 lbs.
1 Cow's Head	Jaw Injury	20 lbs.
2 sets Cow's Lungs	Pneumonia	24 lbs.
4 Cow Carcases and all organs	Fevered	1825 lbs.
2 Cows' Livers	Inflammation	24 lbs.
2 sets Cow's Lungs	Inflammation	24 lbs.
3 Cows' Spleens	Inflammation	9 lbs.
2 Cows' Thick Skirts	Inflammation	6 lbs.
3 Cows' Livers	Angioma	38 lbs.
1 Bullock carcase and all organs	Peritonitis	650 lbs.
Part forequarter Cow	Bruised	150 lbs.
1 Cow Shank	Bruised	10 lbs.
Hindquarter of Cow	Bruised	275 lbs.
Beef Shin	Bruised	15 lbs.
1 set Cow's Lungs	Congestion	12 lbs.
Beef Trimmings	Congestion	10 lbs.
Complete Cow's organs	Congestion	80 lbs.
5 Cow's Livers	Cirrhosis	66 lbs.
2 Cows' Livers	Fatty Infiltration	28 lbs.
4 Cows' Carcases and all organs	Johnes Disease	2100 lbs.
8 Cows' Kidneys	Nephritis	21 lbs.
Beef Trimmings	Nephritis	10 lbs.
4 Cow's Livers	Abscesses	50 lbs.
1 set Cow's Lungs	Abscesses	14 lbs.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs	Dropsical	600 lbs.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs	Septicaemia	400 lbs.
1 set Cow's Lungs	Pericarditis	12 lbs.
1 Cow's Heart	Pericarditis	3 lbs.
1 Set Cow's Lungs	Hydatid Cysts	12 lbs.
TOTAL ...		13,527 lbs.

The following table of carcasses inspected and condemned is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health :—

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed	2	64	6	10	71
Number inspected	2	55	6	10	35
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	10	1	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	19	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	50.0	52.7	16.6	40.0	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	8	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	14	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	40.0	—	—	5.7

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937
in the COUNTY OF STAFFORD, on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES

Premises.			
Factories with mechanical power	..	..	...
Factories without mechanical power	..	..	...
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and ing construction but not including outworkers' premises)			
TOTAL		..	...

2.—DEFENSE

Particulars.			
Want of cleanliness	..	..	...
Overcrowding	..	..	..
Unreasonable temperature	..	..	..
Inadequate ventilation	..	..	..
Ineffective drainage of floors		..	..
Sanitary Conveniences	{	insufficient ..	..
		unsuitable or defective ..	..
		not separate for sexes ..	..
No Certificate as to Means of Escape in Case of			t
Emission of Fumes	..	..	..
TOTAL		..	..

1948, for the RURAL DISTRICT OF LICHFIELD,
tion of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the

PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
...	7	2	..
...	4	..	..
eer-	...	..	..
...	
...	11	2	..

FOUND.

	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...	1	1	...	...
...	1	1	...	...
...	2	2	...	...

RONALD E. JOHNSON, Medical Officer of Health.

